

**MINUTES
CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH
ELECTRIC UTILITY ADVISORY
VIA TELECONFERENCE - YOUTUBE
WEDNESDAY APRIL 5TH, 2023 - 6:00 PM**

ROLL CALL:

Present members: Ryan Oblander, David Simms, Eric Jeffers. Matthew Portilla was absent for the roll call arrived at 6:10. Ramsay Stevens was not in attendance. Edward Liberty, the Board Liaison, and Commissioner Christopher McVoy were also in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: led by Board Member David Simms. (1:29)

AGENDA - Additions/Deletions/Reordering:

No additions, deletions or reordering on the agenda. (1:54)

PRESENTATIONS: (there is no public comment on Presentation items)

There was no presentation. (2:06)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was no public participation. (2:07)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (2:14)

EUAB Minutes 10.04.22

Action: The motion was made by David Simms to approve minutes in the agenda second by Eric Jeffers.

Vote: Unanimous

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS: (11:52)

A. Solar Energy Loan Fund

Edward Liberty introduced Doug Coward to the board, the Founder of the Self Energy Loan Fund.

Doug Coward is the Founder of the Self Energy Loan Fund and before establishing SELF he was a Senior Environmental Planner with St. Lucie County and a served for 12 years as a County Commissioner. Self-Energy Loan Fund Inc. is a Florida not-for-profit

corporation established in 2010 and certified by Department as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), with a mission to increase access to innovative and affordable financing for sustainable property improvements, with a focus on LMI (Low Moderate Income) households (Green Home Loans) and special programs for veterans, individuals with less than stellar credit scores, heads of household, and disabled individuals who must otherwise rely on high interest rate credit cards, payday loans, pawn shops, and/or have no financing options at all. SELF provides financial inclusion to underbanked and unbanked communities to advance energy equity and sustainable building practices via unsecured micro-loans based on the applicant's financial history and ability to pay, not credit scores; and therefore, fills financial gaps to help LMI households and businesses advance efficiencies, safeguard families and properties, and utilize state-of-the-art technologies to achieve meaningful savings in energy, water, and insurance bills.

SELF and the CITY desire to work together to expand SELF's financing programs to homeowners and property owners within the CITY's Utility Service Area to achieve more energy efficiency, solar, storm resilience, and other sustainable building practices, with a focus on SELF's Green Home Loans, which typically include: home repairs, most often roofs and HVAC; as well as upgrades, such as impact windows and doors, central water and sewer conversions, solar and battery technologies, home EV charging stations, and mobility and aging in place.

Board members suggests the City or SELF conduct checks and balance to ensure this is the best option for the homeowners (2:18:00)

Mr. Liberty stated this is included in the scope of services in Exhibit A of the proposal by SELF. (2:18:12)

Lengthy discussion ensued.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Ryan Oblander asked the Board Liaison if staff had an update on the vacant board member seat for the neighboring City Village of Palm Springs. (2:35:04)

Mr. Liberty stated that City staff has in several ways contacted the Village of Palm Springs on this matter but no candidate has come forward. (2:35:07)

BOARD LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Board Liaison informed the board that Electric Utility applied for two (2) Grid Resilience Improvement Plans (GRIP) grants through the Inflation Reduction Act to continue in the efforts on improving the City infrastructure and technology. (2:44:22)

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.